



#8/A
PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

12/20/02

Applicant: Buss et al,

Examiner: Kovacs, Arpad F.

Serial No.: 09/902,084

Group Art Unit 3671

Filed: 09 July 2002

(Atty. Ref. No. 15487-US)

For: ANTI-BLOWOUT LIP AND EXTENSION

Moline, IL 61265

12 December 2002

First Amendment

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2002

GROUP 3600

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated 16 September 2002 and identified as Paper No. 7, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

1. Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following:

Specifically, the first of the two above devices is provided in the form of a lip that is made integral with, or as one-piece of, the front edge of the deck. The lip is extended vertically downwardly to the level of the cutting plane of, particularly, the center blade. Moreover, it is constructed to sit off to the left of the midpoint of the center blade. It is in this area that the streams of cut material from the two adjacent blades converge. Positioning the lip in this manner substantially decreases the likelihood that vegetation which has been cut and debris that has been disturbed will escape from the center chamber, and thus the deck itself.